

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

CINCEUR STUTTGART

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MILITARY ADDRESSES FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GW

SUBJECT: BRANDT'S TESTIMONY AT GUILLAUME TRIAL

REF: DUESSELDORF 793

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE MOST PROMINENT WITNESS TO DATE IN THE GUILLAUME SPY TRIAL, EX-CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT, CONFIRMED THAT GUILLAUME HAD HAD ACCESS TO SECRET INFORMATION THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN OF EXTREME INTEREST TO FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. BRANDT ADMITTED THAT THIS FACT WAS IN CONFLICT WITH HIS BUNDESTAG TESTIMONY AFTER GUILLAUME'S ARREST.

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BRANDT BLAMED THEN INTERIOR MINISTER GENSCHER AND COUNTER-

ESPIONAGE CHIEF NOLLAU FOR ADVISING HIM TO KEEP GUILLAUME IN HIS POSITION DESPITE THE SUSPICIONS THAT HAD ARISEN PENDING THE DECISION TO ARREST HIM. END SUMMARY.

2. SO FAR MORE THAN EIGHTY WITNESSES HAVE BEEN HEARD IN THE ESPIONAGE TRIAL OF GUENTER AND CHRISTEL GUILLAUME WHICH BEGAN END OF JUNE. IN VIEW OF THE SILENCE MAINTAINED BY THE DEFENDANTS, THE PROSECUTION HAS THE BURDEN OF PROVING THEIR GUILT. THE WITNESSES DESCRIBED GUILLAUME AS AN ABLE MAN WELL TRAINED IN INTELLIGENCE WORK AND TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE GDR MINISTRY FOR STATE SECURITY. GERMAN COUNTER- INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS TESTIFIED THAT GUILLAUME HAD ACCESS TO SECRET AND CLASSIFIED FILES AND USED HIS KNOWLEDGE TO GIVE THE GDR GOVERNMENT IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR USE IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN FRG AND GDR.

3. AMONG THE PROMINENT WITNESSES WERE FEDERAL DEFENSE MINISTER GEORG LEBER (SPD) AND DR. HERBERT EHRENBURG, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SPD BUNDESTAG FACTION. LEBER REPORTED HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY GUILLAUME'S ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITIES AND EHRENBURG ADMITTED THAT HE HAD SUGGESTED GUILLAUME FOR THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE UPON GUILLAUME'S APPLICATION.

4. SPD CHAIRMAN AND EX-CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT TESTIFIED ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1975. HE STATED THAT WHEN GUILLAUME CAME TO BONN IN 1970 MINISTER HORST EHMKE FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE HAD CASUALLY TALKED ABOUT CERTAIN SUSPICIONS WHICH HAD BEEN INVESTIGATED BY SECURITY PEOPLE, WHO CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THEY WERE UNFOUNDED.

5. BRANDT STATED THAT END OF MAY 1973, HE HAD BEEN VAGUELY INFORMED BY HANS DIETRICH GENSCHER (FDP), AT THAT TIME INTERIOR MINISTER, ABOUT "FEARS" THAT A MAN WITH A FRENCH SOUNDING NAME IN THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE WAS WORKING FOR THE GDR. THIS BRANDT CONSIDERED TO BE QUITE IMPROBABLE AND UNTIL MARCH 1974 HE HAD BELIEVED IT TO BE UTTERLY ABSURD THAT HIS AIDE GUILLAUME COULD BE A SPY. NEVERTHELESS BRANDT AGREED TO THE SURVEILLANCE OF GUILLAUME BY THE APPROPRIATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECURITY AGENCIES. FOLLOWING THE ADVISE OF GENSCHER AND NOLLAU, AT THAT TIME HEAD OF THE FEDERAL OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION, NOTHING WAS CHANGED IN GUILLAMME'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND JOB ROUTINE. ACCORDING TO BRANDT THIS WAS ALSO TO APPLY TO HIS TRIP TO NORWAY FOR WHICH GUILLAUME WAS TO ACCOMPANY THE CHANCELLOR. BRANDT SUPPOSED THAT GUILLAUME COULD EASILY BE KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE IN NORWAY. IN FACT IT TURNED OUT THAT

GUILLAUME WAS NOT WATCHED AT ALL IN NORWAY.

6. BRANDT CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD MOST PROBABLY GIVEN A LETTER FROM EX-PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON, WHICH DEALT WITH DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OVER WORLD POLITICAL ISSUES AND WITH NATO PROBLEMS, TO GUILLAUME FOR TRANSMITTAL TO BONN. THE TESTIMONY INDICATED THAT GUILLAUME HAD ALSO HAD ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED CABLES SENT TO AND FROM BRANDT WHILE HE WAS IN NORWAY.

7. BRANDT VOLUNTEERED THE ADMISSION THAT HE HAD MADE AN INCORRECT STATEMENT IN THE BUNDESTAG AFTER GUILLAUME'S ARREST TO THE EFFECT THAT THE AGENT HAD HAD NO ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED MATERIAL. THIS STATEMENT HAD BEEN MADE TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE AT THAT TIME. LATER THE RECORDS SHOWED THAT GUILLAUME DID INDEED HAVE ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED MATERIAL.

8. WITH THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT BRANDT CONSIDERED IT WRONG TO HAVE FOLLOWED THE ADVICE OF GENSCHER AND NOLLAU TO KEEP GUILLAUME IN HIS OFFICE WHEN HE WAS UNDER SUSPICION.

9. BRANDT AFFIRMED THAT GUILLAUME HAD HAD ACCESS TO MATERIAL THAT COULD HAVE BEEN OF GREAT INTEREST TO A FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE BUT SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW MUCH INFORMATION HAD BEEN PASSED ON BY GUILLAUME.

10. THE WITNESS REPORTED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE SPY AFFAIR WITH SOVIET PARTY BOSS LEONID BREZHNEV BUT WITHOUT MENTIONING GUILLAUME'S NAME. BOTH SIDES HAD DEPLORED THE EVENTS OF 1974, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN CONDUCIVE TO INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.
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11. COMMENT: BRANDT'S TESTIMONY THROWS A DUBIOUS LIGHT ON THE ROLE OF GENSCHER AND NOLLAU, AS WELL AS ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SECURITY AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT BRANDT HAS CRITICIZED GENSHER PUBLICLY ON THIS ISSUE.DUX

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